REMARKS

Claims 1-9 remain pending.

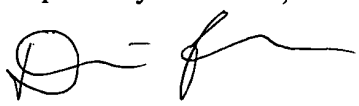
The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Korean patent 10-0278551 ('551).

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claim 1, '551 does not teach or suggest "a plurality of oscillator stages configured to oscillate synchronously wherein the phase of each of the plurality of oscillator stages is substantially the same". Figures 7 and 12 of '551 illustrate a cascaded ring oscillator and two-input cascaded ring oscillator, respectively. In "A LOW-PHASE-NOISE CMOS LC OSCILLATOR WITH A RING STRUCTURE" (2000 IEEE International Solid-State Circuits Conference by Kim et al.), which is included in an Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith, similar cascaded ring oscillators are discussed (Figure 26.3.2, Kim et al). The outputs of a cascaded ring oscillator stage are sent to the inputs of the next stage. For the cascaded ring oscillator to properly oscillate, 360° of phase change from the input of the first stage to the output of the last stage are divided among the stages; therefore there is a phase difference between two neighboring stages. As such, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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